

PORTHCAWL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

**1957**



"Glamorgan Gazette," Ltd.,  
Queen Street, Bridgend.



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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



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## *Members of the Public Health Committee—*

Councillor Mrs. M. E. Jones, J.P.  
(Chairman of the Council).

Councillor Mrs. E. M. Bowen  
(Vice-Chairman of the Council).

Councillor D. N. Jones  
(Chairman of the Health Committee).

Councillor D. R. Jones,	Councillor P. Boyle,
Councillor E. J. Matthews,	Councillor R. C. Fry,
Councillor C. Walker,	Councillor W. J. Williams,
Councillor V. E. Roberts,	Councillor T. Matthias,
Councillor R. P. T. Deere,	Councillor C. Phillips,
Councillor H. Short,	Councillor J. M. Thomas.

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## *Staff—Public Health Department:*

J. Alun Evans, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Joint appointment with Bridgend Urban District Council  
and Penybont Rural District Council.

R. P. Dicks, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Senior Public Health  
Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

T. T. Rees, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Additional Public Health  
Inspector and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

C. Best, Pupil, Public Health Inspector.

# To The Chairman and Members of the Porthcawl Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Porthcawl for the year 1957. This report has been prepared on the lines laid down in Circular 1/58 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.

Area of Urban District .....	3,737 acres
Rateable Value at 31st March, 1957 .....	167,193
Product of a Penny Rate .....	£666
Registrar General's estimate of population Mid 1957 .....	10,310

## Census Population figures: —

Census 1911 .....	3,443	
Census 1921 .....	6,642	
Census 1931 .....	6,447	Males 2,746 Females 3,701
Census 1951 .....	9,529	Males 4,283 Females 5,246
Censal Increase 1931-1952 .....	3,082	
Censal Increase percentage of 1931 population ...	47.8	
Number of inhabited houses, 1921 .....	1,297	
Number of inhabited houses end of 1957 .....	3,231	

## Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births—			
Total births .....	130	67	63
Legimate .....	123	63	60
Illegitimate .....	7	4	3
Still Births .....	2	2	—
Legitimate .....	1	1	—
Illegitimate .....	1	1	—
Deaths: under 1 year of age ...	6	5	1
Legitimate .....	6	5	1
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—
Deaths: under 4 weeks of age ...	5	4	1
Legitimate .....	5	4	1
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All infants, per 1,000 live births ..... 46.15

Death Rate of infants under 4 weeks of age: —

All infants, per 1,000 live births ..... 38.46

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..... 20

Death from Measles (all ages) ..... —

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ..... —

## **GENERAL HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES**

### **1.—Services provided by the Glamorgan County Council—**

- (a) At the Divisional Health Office, Quarella Road, Bridgend (Tel. No. Bridgend 700), the following services are provided—

Maternity and Child Welfare, Home Nursing, Home Help, School Medical and Health Visiting. These services are administered by the Divisional Medical Officer.

- (b) **Mental Health Services—**

The duties of the duly authorised officer in your area are carried out by Mr. D. Mahoney, 29, Tanyrallt Avenue, Bridgend.

- (c) **Ambulance Service—**

The Ambulance Station for your area is situated at Oak Street, Aberkenfig (Tel. No. Aberkenfig 303).

- (d) **Welfare Service—**

The local office for this service is at the Divisional Health Office, Quarella Road, Bridgend (Tel. No. Bridgend 1456). Officers of the Welfare Department are available to offer assistance and advice to those in need of hostel accommodation, the blind and the handicapped.

In the Mid-Glamorgan area, there are three County Council Homes for aged persons. These are Craig-y-Parcau, Bridgend (31 men and women); Moorlands, Porthcawl (26 men and women) and Danygraig, Porthcawl (33 men and women).

- (e) **Children Department**

The office of the Childrens Department of the County Council is at the County Hall, Cardiff. There is, however, a sub-office at 25, Wyndham Street, Bridgend (Tel. No. Bridgend 930).



## 2.—Hospital Services—

Hospital facilities for your area are administered by the Mid-Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee. The office of this Committee is at 8, Wind Street, Neath (Tel. No. Neath 2251/3). The following is a list of the hospitals and clinics used by the residents of your area:—

- (i) Bridgend General Hospital, Quarella Road, Bridgend (Tel.) No. Bridgend 1016/8).—381 beds.
- (ii) Bridgend and District Cottage Hospital, Merthyrmaur Road, Bridgend (Tel. No. 17).—36 beds.
- (iii) Cefn Hirgoed Isolation Hospital, Bridgend (Tel. No. Bridgend 1178).—78 beds.  
(24 for infectious Diseases, 54 for Tuberculosis).
- (iv) Heddfan, Cefn Hirgoed Small Pox Hospital, Bridgend (Tel. No. Aberkenfig 240).—18 beds for aged persons.
- (v) Maesgwyn, Bryncethin (Tel. No. Aberkenfig 371).—66 beds for aged persons.
- (vi) Bridgend Chest Clinic, Old Cottage Hospital, Bridgend (Tel. No. Bridgend 345).
- (vii) V.D. Clinic, Oakwood Street, Port Talbot.

## 3.—Services provided by Government Departments—

### (a) Ministry of National Insurance.

The office for the Council's area is situated at—The Central Buildings, Mary Street, Porthcawl (Tel. No. Porthcawl 582).

This office also serves the following areas in the Penbont Rural District—Stormy Down, Cornelly, Kenfig, Kenfig Hill and Pyle.

Cases in receipt of benefit referred by this Department to the Welsh Board of Health, are examined by their Divisional Medical Officer at the Chest Clinic, Old Cottage Hospital, Bridgend. Medical Boards for the examination of claimants to disablement benefits under the National Industrial Injury Act, are held each Wednesday in the Clinic, Glanogwr, Bridgend.

(b) National Assistance Board.

The area office for your district is at Angel Street, Bridgend (Tel. No. Bridgend 1440).

To assist residents in the Porthcawl Area a supplementary Station in the Central Buildings, Mary Street, Porthcawl, is open each week on Friday at 10 a.m.

**4.—General Practitioner Services.**

This service is provided by the Glamorgan Executive Council, 47, Park Place, Cardiff. (Tel. No. 26216).

**5.—Laboratory Facilities.**

All bacteriological and chemical analyses relating to water, milk and ice-cream are carried out for your area by the Glamorgan County Laboratory, The Parade, Cardiff.

**Care of the Aged.**

During the year my services were sought by several general Practitioners, and the National Assistance Board, to investigate the home conditions, etc., of elderly persons who were in need of hospital or hostel accommodation.

The care of the aged continues to be one of the major problems for the community. In my dealings with them, I must confess that I do admire and appreciate their desire to maintain as long as possible their own independence and the way of life that has been theirs for many years.

Their standard of hygiene may often not be all that is desired but I feel sure that the inward happiness that is theirs in their own home surrounded by their personal possessions is a feature that is worth protecting in spite of occasional risks and administrative difficulties.

There is no doubt that the Council should build more bungalows for the elderly as I am sure they realise that moving into an Aged Persons Home, excellent though they be, is not readily acceptable to the majority of old people.



## National Assistance Act, 1948.

### (a) *Section 50.*—BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

No money was spent by your Council under this section of the Act during the year under review.

### (b) REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

No action was taken by your Council under Section 47 of the Act. 4 aged persons, however, were found to be in need of care and attention or medical treatment, and were persuaded to enter hospital or hostels.

## **Tuberculosis.**

Facilities for the diagnosis, home and clinic treatment of Tuberculosis are obtained through Dr. Hugh Trail, Chest Physician, Old Cottage Hospital, Bridgend (Tel. No. Bridgend 345). In this work he is assisted by an assistant Chest Physician. The Chest Physicians are also responsible for the medical treatment of the cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis at the Cefn Hirgoed Isolation Hospital.

The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in your area remains somewhat stationary.

This is similar to the trend nationally where the incidence of the disease continues to remain high although the death rate is rapidly falling, but it should be noted that cases are now occurring far more frequently in the higher age groups, i.e., 35 years and over. The occurrence of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis continues to remain low and no death occurred.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis is usually of bovine origin and was very commonly caused by the drinking of contaminated milk. There is no doubt that the milk regulations, and particularly the greater use of pasteurised milk has been responsible for this fall.

The "Captain of the Men of Death" no longer holds his rank—prevention, however, continues to be the key to eradicating the disease. Methods for the detection of the individual cases will have to be intensified and for this the co-operation of the public will be required. Greater use of the tuberculin tests will be necessary and special attention paid to the older sections of the community, many of whom, unknowingly, are chronic carriers of the tubercle bacilli.

## New Cases and Mortality during 1957.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1957.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .....	5	2	—	2	—	—	—	—

### (a) Number of Cases on Tuberculosis Register at commencement of the Year.

M.	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Total
	F.	Total			M.	F.			
32	26	58	...		11	6	17	...	75

### (b) Cases transferred to Register from other Areas during 1957

M.	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Total
	F.	Total			M.	F.			
1	4	5	...		—	—	—	...	5

### (c) Number of Cases on Tuberculosis Register at commencement of the year.

M.	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Total
	F.	Total			M.	F.			
37	27	64	...		11	8	19	...	83

# Notification of Tuberculosis during 1957 and the previous Twenty Years.

Year	CASES			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1937	6	4	—	1
1938	3	6	2	2
1939	4	3	—	3
1940	8	7	2	1
1941	8	6	4	3
1942	9	5	2	1
1943	4	8	3	6
1944	5	5	4	5
1945	5	2	3	2
1946	7	4	4	1
1947	6	7	—	1
1948	4	11	4	2
1949	5	8	2	1
1950	10	6	—	—
1951	3	2	1	1
1952	4	5	3	1
1953	3	3	2	2
1954	1	5	—	1
1955	2	3	—	—
1956	5	—	—	1
1957	5	2	—	2

## Deaths from Tuberculosis during 1957 and the previous Twenty Years.

Year	DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1936	3	3	—	—
1937	—	1	—	—
1938	1	1	—	1
1939	2	4	—	—
1940	2	1	—	—
1941	2	4	1	2
1942	5	1	—	—
1943	9	3	1	1
1944	—	1	—	—
1945	3	2	—	1
1946	1	—	—	—
1947	1	1	—	—
1948	1	3	—	—
1949	1	3	—	—
1950	2	2	—	—
1951	1	—	—	—
1952	3	—	—	—
1953	2	1	—	—
1954	—	3	1	—
1955	—	—	—	—
1956	—	—	—	1
1957	—	—	—	—

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### 1.—Water Supply.

On April 1st, 1953, the Council became constituent members of the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board. The other members constituting this Board are:—Cowbridge Borough, Cowbridge R.D.C., Maesteg U.D.C., Ogmore U.D.C., and the Penybont R.D.C.

The main source of supply for your area continues to be from the Craig-yr-Aber Resvoir, but this supply is supplemented by a supply from Schwyll.

### 2.—Drainage and Sewerage.

The major portion of the district is sewered; one small section has a separate system for surface water drainage, the remainder is on a combined system. That part of the Urban Area, West of the railway, drains by gravity to a sea outfall near Iron Gate Point. Most of the sewage of the Eastern section gravitates to a pumping station at Glan Road, the remainder to a sea outfall situated opposite the Red House, Newton.

As in previous years, during the month of August several complaints were received from holiday makers about the pollution of the sea at Newton by sewage.

For many years, I have reported that the Newton Beach sewer outfall is defective and it is pleasing to record that extensive work has now commenced on repairing these defects.

During the summer months, an epidemic of Poliomyelitis occurred in this country and there was much publicity in the press and a great deal of public alarm centred over the possibility of Poliomyelitis being spread by polluted sea water. The heavy pollution at Newton Beach was subject to that publicity. Although theoretically the slender possibility might exist, there is virtually no evidence that this disease is spread by sea bathing whether the water is polluted or not. It must however, be remembered that there is ample evidence that typhoid and paratyphoid fevers can and do result from the sewage pollution of our coastal waters and there is a possible danger that those holiday makers so infected may on returning home spread the disease in the large towns.

Fortunately, no cases of these fevers have been recorded in your area but the possibility, however, still exists and although the public alarm has died down, one does feel that this urgent problem of coastal pollution by sewage should receive consideration.

It has been suggested that every seaside resort should provide a Sewage Purification Scheme. I am in favour of that opinion but as these schemes are costly and provide for a number of persons greatly in excess of the normal resident population, it is felt that more liberal grants should be made available for these projects.

### **Cesspools.**

The number of cesspools in your area is far in excess of what one would expect in a progressive town, and the extension of the sewer in certain parts of your area is possible and urgently needed in order that this archaic method of sewage disposal can be discontinued. Particularly is this desirous along the West Road.

Of the 80 houses built during the year 79 were connected to the sewer and 1 to a cesspool.

The emptying and cleansing of cesspools is carried out by the Council's workmen under the direction of the Surveyor.

## **THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF TOWN REFUSE.**

### **Collection.**

This work is carried out by the Council's own staff under the direction and supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor. Residential quarters have a weekly collection of their household refuse, whilst from business centres and hotels the refuse is collected twice weekly, or more frequently if the necessity exists.

All refuse is collected in modern and specially designed motor vehicles, thereby reducing to a minimum any nuisance which may arise.

### **Refuse Disposal.**

The disposal of refuse is by "controlled tipping", the tip being situated on the sand dunes to the west of Rhych Avenue. The tipping is carried out in proper layer formation, the refuse being levelled and top dressed with sand. The tip, unfortunately, is sited near New Road and many complaints are received from the residents living nearby. The problem of finding alternative tipping space is now becoming urgent.



## Back Lanes.

Every effort is made to keep back lanes of the District as clean and passable a state as present circumstances will allow. Frequent inspections are made with a view to preventing deposit and accumulation of refuse thereon.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(i) The number and nature of inspections.

### General Sanitation.

Water Supply .....	62
Drainage .....	498
Fried Fish Shops .....	24
Tents, Vans, Sheds .....	1720
Factories .....	15
Bakehouses .....	10
Public Conveniences .....	136
Theatres and Places of Entertainment .....	2
Refuse Collection .....	32
Refuse Disposal .....	20
Rats and Mice .....	41
Schools .....	12
Shops .....	320
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits ...	883

### Housing.

#### UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of Houses inspected .....	170
Visits paid to above houses .....	173



## HOUSING.—Continued.

### UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS.

Number of Houses inspected .....	107
Visits paid to above Houses .....	112

### OVERCROWDING.

Visits paid to above Houses .....	Nil
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### VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Number of Houses inspected .....	3
Visits paid to above Houses .....	3

### HOUSING.

Miscellaneous Housing visits .....	217
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### Infectious Diseases.

Miscellaneous infectious Disease visits .....	7
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### Meat and Food Inspection.

Visits to:—

Meat Shops .....	161
Fishmongers and Poulterers .....	812
Grocers .....	239
Greengrocers and Fruiterers .....	132
Dairies and Milk Shops .....	14
Food Preparing Premises .....	261
Restaurants .....	259
Ice-Cream Premises .....	260

### VISITS IN CONNECTION WITH SAMPLING.

Milk—Tubercle Bacilli .....	13
Water Supplies—Bacteriological ...	81
Miscellaneous Food Visits .....	382

## Factories.

There are 48 Factories (Mechanical and Non-Mechanical) in the district as follows:—

Engineering Works (Motor Repair, etc.) .....	10
Bakehouses .....	6
Dressmakers .....	1
Shoemakers .....	5
Plumbers .....	4
Timber Merchants and Joiners ...	4
Sewage Pumping Stations .....	3
Builders' Workshops .....	6
Gas Works .....	1
Cycle Repair Shops .....	3
Quarries .....	3
Monumental Works .....	1
Blacksmith .....	1
Jewellery .....	1

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE SHOPS ACTS.

Number of Shop Premises on the register .....	284
Visits paid to Shops during year ...	320

## ERADICATION OF INSECT PESTS.

11 visits were made to 5 premises.

The work of disinfection was carried out by the Public Health Department, and the costs incurred were recovered from the owner and/or occupier of the infested premises. In every instance contact insecticides were used, and the results proved satisfactory.

## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The cost of this service, to the Council, is subject to 50 per cent grant from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

A full-time rodent operator is employed by the Council for the destruction of rats throughout the district. All the complaints from private and business premises were attended to, the treatment being carried out free of charge in private premises but the cost of treatment at business and commercial premises was recovered.

Below is a copy of the report, for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1958, forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in respect of the above:—

	Local Auth.	Dwelling Houses Council Houses	All including Business Premises	TOTAL	Agri- cultural
No. of properties inspected as a result of :—					
(a) Notification .....	—	30	5	35	—
(b) Survey under the Act ...	8	700	129	837	19
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited for some other purpose) .....	—	5	1	6	—
II. Total inspections carried out including re-inspections ...	29	2052	152	2233	21
No. of properties which were found to be infested by:—					
(a) Rats—Major .....	—	—	—	—	—
Minor .....	4	119	4	127	—
(b) Mice—Major .....	—	—	—	—	—
Minor .....	—	66	2	68	—
No. of infested properties treated by the Local Authority .....	4	185	6	193	—
Total treatments carried out including re-treatments .....	4	185	6	195	—

Mr. Dicks reports that in addition to the above, as is required by the Ministry, two sewer maintenance treatments of the sewers within your area were carried out.

5 block controlled Schemes were also found to be necessary. In this type of block treatment all the premises and land within a given area are treated simultaneously.

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Atmospheric pollution is not a problem in your area and no action was necessary. The only area liable to dust nuisance is in the vicinity of the railway and the complete removal of this nuisance is unlikely to occur until steam engines have been re-placed by deisel engines.

## SCHOOLS IN THE PORTHCAWL AREA.

12 visits were made to schools during the year. There are, in your area, three large, well equipped schools provided by the County Council.

One modern Primary School is situated in New Road, and serves the East Ward of the area.

The second, incorporating all the latest facilities in modern design, is situated in the North end Suffolk Place, in the West Ward of the area.

The third school is a modern Secondary School situated in Park Avenue, in the West Ward. This latter school is of modern design and situated in pleasant surroundings.

In addition, there are the following schools in the Porthcawl district:—

1. St. Clare's Convent School, Newton.
2. St. John's Preparatory School, Newton.
3. Cardiff Corporation Camp School, Nottage.

With the opening of the new school at Suffolk Place, the use of the old Church School at Lias Road was discontinued in 1952.

## HOUSING.

### General Observations.

During the year 80 houses were erected. All were built by private enterprise

As in previous years, the Council readily made available facilities for the borrowing of money to those persons anxious to acquire their own accommodation.

Interview granted to many of your housing applicants showed that there are many families undergoing extreme hardship on account of medical disabilities, lack of adequate accommodation or living in sub-standard accommodation.

As no Council houses were erected during the year, I am repeating the remarks made in last year's Annual Report.

I feel that special mention should be made of the very difficult position that your Housing Manager occupies.

Each week he grants numerous interviews to very deserving and urgent cases on your list who have been residents of the town for many years. Unfortunately, as the last Council house was built in 1953, he is unable to offer any hope to housing applicants that their housing problems will be solved within a reasonable period. Not only does this position apply to young married couples with families but also to aged persons, who are anxious to avail themselves of aged persons bungalows. Whatever have been the difficulties in the past, one feels that the Council should urgently devote their energies to providing more Council owned dwellings, and particularly would I mention dwellings for aged persons.

The following are particulars of the Housing position as at the end of the year:—

1. Number of dwellings owned by the Council,  
323, made up as follows:—
 

(a) Permanent houses .....	278
(b) Two bedroomed flats .....	28
(c) Aged Persons' Bungalows .....	12
(Erected 1949)	
(d) Unfit houses (temporary repairs) .....	5
  2. No. of applicants housed in vacated properties ... 14
  3. Transfers effected ..... 1
  4. Number of applicants regisered for housing accom-  
modation as at December, 1957 ..... 722
- Particulars relating to registered applicants:—
- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| Total application on Live List (excluding<br>O.A.P.) .....                      | 223 |
| Total applications deferred (living outside area,<br>not traceable, etc.) ..... | 499 |
| Application for Aged Persons' Bungalows .....                                   | 32  |
5. Applications received during 1957:—
 

For houses/flats .....	42
For O.A.P. Bungalows .....	9



The following table indicates the progress of house erection in the Urban Area from 1893 to 1957:—

From 1893 to 1900	55	house	were	completed	and	occupied.
„ 1900 to 1905	96	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1905 to 1910	492	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1910 to 1915	249	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1915 to 1920	98	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1920 to 1925	223	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1925 to 1930	137	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1930 to 1935	275	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1935 to 1940	337	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1940 to 1945	—	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1945 to 1946	14	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1946 to 1947	58	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1947 to 1948	86	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1948 to 1949	26	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1949 to 1950	17	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1950 to 1951	29	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1951 to 1952	139	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1952 to 1953	93	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1953 to 1954	43	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1954 to 1955	46	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1955 to 1956	86	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1956 to 1957	80	„	„	„	„	„

### HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses owned by the Local Authority:—

(1) Under the Housing Acts .....	323
(2) Other Powers .....	Nil.

Number of houses erected during the year:—

Total .....	80
(1) By Local Authority .....	Nil.
(2) By other Bodies and Persons .....	80

Number of houses in course of erection ..... 45

### Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

(1) Clearance Areas .....	Nil.
(2) Closing and Demolition Orders .....	3
(3) Housing Repairs:—	

(a) Unfit houses made fit by:

(1) Informal action .....	41
(2) Formal action: Public Health Acts—	
(a) By Owners .....	81
(b) By Council .....	6



## Housing Acts—

(a) By Owners .....	7
(b) By Council .....	2
(4) Unfit houses retained (Patchwork repair) for temporary accommodation .....	5
(5) Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954:— Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked .....	Nil.

### Rent Act, 1957.

This Act came into operation on the 6th July, 1957 and follows upon the Rent and Repairs Act of 1954. The Act has two purposes in that it frees from rent control houses (including flats) above certain levels of rateable value and secondly allows limited increases in rents of houses still under control. Opportunity is given tenants, upon whom increases of rent have been imposed, of obtaining general repairs sometimes outside the purview of the Public Health Acts.

Three applications for Certificates of Disrepair were made but in each case the landlords gave undertakings to remedy the defects proposed to be included in the Certificates of Disrepair.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

During the summer months 12 sites were occupied by holiday campers in tents and motor trailers. 1,720 visits were made to camping sites in 1957.

This year the total number of occupied structures reached a new record.

Often it is not realised that during August the number of occupied tents and caravans exceed the number of dwelling houses in the district and that the number of occupiers is much greater than the static population of Porthcawl. It is not for me to indicate whether saturation point has been reached but only to mention that such a position does create many problems for the town.

Mr. Dicks, your Senior Public Health Inspector reports that the phenomenal growth of camping in this area amounts to a near social revolution and points out that on one licensed camping site the figures in 1934 were 200 moveable dwellings (peak) mainly tents occupied over a period of a few weeks but by 1958 the figure had increased to 1,753 moveable dwellings (peak) mainly caravans occupied in varying degree over a period of 7 months.

In your District the areas of land licensed for use as sites for moveable dwellings are commercial sites where most of the caravans remain on one pitch for the season, and where sub-letting of caravans take place. The sites are in regular use for a period of seven months and consequently the need for securing the best possible standards in the interests of public health is of the utmost importance.

The Council have spent much time and thought before approving the granting of licences. Attached to such licences are conditions dealing with:—

- (i) The number and classes of moveable dwellings.
- (ii) The minimum space between such dwellings.
- (iii) Water supply.
- (vi) The securing of sanitary conditions.

For various reasons the requirements of the 'Conditions' have not been observed by many of the licensees, but as the Department have always found that those responsible are always ready to implement suggestions for improving the conditions at their camp, we are confident that good progress will be made by 1958.

Prior to and during the camping season, the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations were brought to the notice of camp proprietors and although a great deal was achieved in this direction much remains to be done to secure the standard desired.

The figures, set out hereunder, relate to conditions prevailing at the peak period for camping, viz.: August (Bank Holiday) week.

	<i>Ordinary Camps</i>	<i>Organised Camps</i>
Aggregate No. of structures	...	...
occupied .....	3,203	92
Aggregate No. of occupants	...	...
(estimate at 5 persons	...	...
per structure) .....	16,015	430
		(Actual)

## For Comparison—

<i>Total Camping Population</i>			<i>Total No. of Occupied Structures</i>		
Year	1957	16,445	...	1957	3,295
"	1956	15,266	...	1956	3,078
"	1955	16,200	...	1955	2,777
"	1954	13,947	...	1954	2,346
"	1953	12,181	...	1953	2,042
"	1952	12,072	...	1952	2,055
"	1951	11,305	...	1951	1,889
"	1950	10,719	...	1950	1,794
"	1949	10,532	...	1949	1,795
"	1948	10,443	...	1948	1,733
"	1947	6,262	...	1947	1,041
"	1946	8,383	...	1946	1,368
"	1945	10,936	...	1945	1,706
"	1939	12,081	...	1939	2,055

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Milk Supply.

The milk supplies of your area continue to be of a high standard.

In recent years great progress has been made in the control of the risk of conveying Tuberculosis to humans by milk.

The main methods of control are:—

- (a) Heat treatment of milk.
- (b) Biological sampling of milk for Tubercle Bacilli.
- (c) By declaring areas as "Specified Areas", where milk sold must be Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised. Your district is within a "Specified Area".
- (d) By the attested scheme and the Eradication plan of the Ministry of Agriculture. In the attested scheme, free Tuberculin Testing of the herd is available. After all the re-actors have been removed from the herd and further negative tests obtained, the herd is declared an attested herd.

Col. Griffiths, the Divisional Veterinary Officer, informs me that in 1949 there were only 119 attested herds in Glamorgan, i.e. 7.9 per cent of the herds, but at the end of 1957, this figure had been increased to 2,232 herds, i.e. 67 per cent of the herds. As proof of the progress that has been made in the eradication of Tuberculosis in cattle, he also informs that in 1939, 299 clinical cases of Tuberculosis in cattle were detected and the animals slaughtered, whereas in 1957, the figure was only 18.

Where the incidence of Tuberculosis in cattle is low, the Ministry may declare the area an "Eradication Plan Area". All farmers within that area are given two years notice that their herds can be Tuberculin Tested free, but after that period Tuberculin Testing becomes compulsory and any re-actors will be sent for slaughter. It is the intention of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to declare the County of Glamorgan an Eradication Area on 1st March, 1959.

If the progress of the past decade is maintained in the future the eradication of tubercle in cattle should soon be accomplished, and it will then be necessary to adopt preventive measures to avoid the cattle contracting the disease from human sources. This has already happened in certain areas in the Scandinavian countries.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) No. 2 Order, only Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk may be retailed within your district.

#### Number of Retail Purveyors:—

(a) Resident .....	7
(b) Non-Resident .....	2

10 Retail Purveyors hold licences for the sale of Designated Milk:—

Sterilised Milk .....	5
Tuberculin Tested Milk .....	8
Pasteurised Milk .....	7
Pasteurised Milk (Supplementary Licences	2
Tuberculin Tested Milk (ditto. ditto.)...	2
Sterilised Milk (ditto. ditto.)...	2

The dairies are regularly inspected and when required, samples of milk are sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory.

As your district is included in a Specified Area, the need for sampling milk has become less.



Seven samples of milk were examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli. Six were negative and one positive. As the positive result was obtained from an ungraded supply prior to the milk being sent for pasteurisation, no action was necessary to prevent the retailing of this milk. The farmer, however, was advised that this milk should not be drunk in a raw state by members of his family.

The Divisional Veterinary Officer was informed of this result and the herd examined. As a result of his examination, one cow was found to be suffering from tuberculosis and under the Tuberculosis Order of 1938, this animal was slaughtered.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the helpful assistance I always receive from the Divisional Veterinary Officer when public health problems involving animal health matters occur.

### **Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.**

These regulations came into operation in 1956, and has resulted in a great improvement in the handling and distribution of food. It cannot be too often stressed that a heavy responsibility is placed on persons handling food and that it is of vital importance that they should always have a high standard of personal hygiene.

Last year, your Inspectors concentrated on improvements in shop premises, hotels and boarding houses. This year, Mr. Dicks, your Senior Public Health Inspector, reports that the major progress was made in connection with licensed premises.

The following improvements were effected:—

Floors repaired .....	1
Wash hand basins provided .....	13
New sink Units .....	4
Constant hot water .....	4
Internal decoration .....	10
Sanitary conveniences provided reconstructed and repaired .....	9
Automatic Sterilising apparatus for cleansing drinking utensils .....	4
Automatic flushing apparatus in sanitary conveniences .....	4
Towel fixtures .....	3
Natural and artificial lighting improved .....	1
Miscellaneous repairs .....	9

Regular visits were paid to food premises and below appears a tabulated list of improvements accomplished in food premises during the year.

	Provided		
	Shops	Stalls	Total
Constant hot water .....	27	13	40
Refrigerator Provided .....	3	—	3
Display refrigerator provided .....	1	—	1
Walls repaired and decorated .....	53	43	96
Floors repaired .....	46	10	56
Measures to combat food			
Contamination .....	5	20	25
Anti fly methods including			
aerial insecticides .....	20	—	20
Washing (food) Equipment .....	6	3	9
Wash hand basins .....	19	15	34
First aid kit .....	2	19	21
Ceilings repaired and decorated ...	65	40	105
Misc. ....	11	—	11
Rest room facilities .....	1	—	1
Stainless steel drainer units .....	4	—	4
Dish washing machine .....	4	—	4
New cooking apparatus .....	5	—	5
Sanitary accommodation .....	5	—	5
Notices (wash hands etc.) .....	10	1	11
Refuse Bins .....	—	3	3
Water supply .....	—	6	6
Drainage .....	—	6	6

### MEAT INSPECTION.

There is no public slaughterhouse or licensed private slaughterhouse within your area.

Your area, therefore, has to rely on the facilities available at the Bridgend Slaughterhouse, and to a lesser degree at the Port Talbot Slaughterhouse.

One slaughterman's licence was granted.

Number of Meat Shops .....	12
Visits to Meat Shops .....	147

### OTHER FOOD PREMISES.

Four hundred and seventy-six visits have been paid to other premises (bakehouses, cafes, fishmongers, etc.), where food intended for human consumption is prepared, stored or sold.

### Unsound Food.

The undermentioned foodstuffs were, upon examination rejected as unfit for human consumption:—



273lbs. Cooked ham, 28lbs. Butchers' Meat, 52lbs. Chicken (plucked and Undrawn), 10lbs. Cooked Chicken, 12lbs. Saugsages, 22lbs. Cooked Prawns, 46 tins of Meat, 11 tins Fish, 134 tins Fruit, 90 tins Vegetables, 47 tins Cream, 26 tins Evaporated Milk, 13 tins Soup, 3 tins Rice Pudding and 29 packets Cake Mixture.

The Department greatly appreciate the vigilance shown by shop keepers in the examination of the food products in their possession, and the willingness in which they seek advice from the Health Department.

### Ice-Cream.

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations came into force on the 1st May, 1947. These Regulations prescribe the method by which Ice Cream should be manufactured. The occupiers of all the registered premises within the Urban District are aware of the requirements of these Regulations.

The greater portion of the Ice Cream that is sold in the town is pre-packed ice-cream, and this should be encouraged as there is much less risk of contamination.

Total number of premises registered .....	70
(a) Number registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of Ice Cream ...	4
(b) Number registered for storage and sale of Ice Cream only .....	66
Visits of inspection in connection with the above .....	260

### ADULTERATION OF FOOD, Etc.

Public Health Inspectors of the Glamorgan County Council are responsible for the sampling under the Foods and Drugs Act, 1938. The following samples were taken in the Council's area during 1957:—

Butter .....	1	Lard .....	1
Baking Powder .....	2	Lemonade Powder .....	1
Chicken (potted) .....	1	Meat Paste .....	3
Cake Mixture .....	6	Molasses .....	1
Condensed Milk .....	2	Mustard .....	2
Cream .....	3	Milk .....	30
Cooking Fat .....	1	Pepper .....	1
Cornflour .....	1	Rice .....	1
Colouring .....	2	Sugar .....	1
Codeine Tablets .....	1	Sado Water .....	1
Dessert Powder .....	1	Sherbert .....	1
Fruit Juice .....	1	Soft Drink .....	4
Flour .....	4	Soup (canned) .....	3
Fish (canned) .....	1	Sauce .....	1
Fruit (mixed dried) .....	2	Table Jelly .....	1
Gelatine .....	1	Vitamin tablets .....	1
Ground Almonds .....	1	Vinegar .....	3
Gravy Browning .....	1	Vegetables (canned) .....	2
Halibut Oil Capsules .....	1		
Ice Cream .....	4		
Jam .....	2		
			97

## FACTORIES

The factories in the district have been systematically inspected and the details as required by the Factory Act, 1937 are set out in the table below.

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of—		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced ... by Local Authorities. ....	8	... 10	... —	... —
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced ... by the Local Authority .....	39	... 21	... 1	... —
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local ... Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) .....	—	... —	... —	... —
Total .....	47	... 31	... 1	... —

## Factories—Continued

### 2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Premises	Number of cases in which defects were found—				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .....	—	...	...	...	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .....	—	...	...	...	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .....	—	...	...	...	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .....	—	...	...	...	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .....	—	...	...	...	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient .....	—	...	...	...	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .....	1	...	...	...	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .....	—	...	...	...	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .....	—	...	...	...	—
Total .....	1	...	...	...	—

3.—Outwork.—During the year no outworkers were notified as residing in this district.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A study of the figures of notifiable diseases shows that the incidence of Measles was high. As very little can be done to control the spread of this disease and complications are rare, it is sometimes felt that there are grounds for ceasing to have this disease statutorily notifiable.

An outbreak of Poliomyelitis occurred in the country during 1957, but fortunately no cases occurred in your area. Two cases of Virus Meningitis were, however, brought to my notice and admitted into Cefn Hirgoed Isolation Hospital. These occurred during the month of August in children spending a caravan holiday in your area. The discovery of an anti-polio vaccine has been a great satisfaction to all those engaged in preventive medicine as very little was known of the exact causes of outbreaks of this disease and the measures necessary to prevent spread. It is now to be hoped that the dramatic results achieved by the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme will be repeated with the Poliomyelitis Scheme.

As was forecast by the Ministry of Health, a wave of Influenza from the Far East spread to this country during the Autumn. An epidemic occurred in your area which commenced at the beginning of September and reached its peak by the beginning of October and then quickly subsided. The condition was mild and the mortality rate was low.

### Diseases Notified during the year 1957.

Notifiable Diseases	Cases Notified in Whole District											
	At Ages — Years											
	Under			10—			20—			35—		
	1	1—2	3—4	5—	10—	15—	20—	25—	30—	35—	40—	Total
1 Scarlet Fever .....	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
2 Whooping Cough .....	7	13	7	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	56
3 Measles .....	3	42	50	96	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	197
4 Meningococcal Meningitis .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
5 Puerperal Pyrexia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals .....	11	55	57	128	8	—	1	—	—	—	—	260

## Deaths from Cancer.

Organs affected	25—45 yrs.		45—65 yrs.		65—75 yrs.		75 upwards		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Face .....							1		1	
Stomach .....					1		1		2	
Colon .....							3		3	
Tongue .....										
Ovary .....					1		3		4	
Uterus .....					2				2	
Lung and Bronchus ...					2	1	1		3	1
Breast .....					1				1	
Bladder .....					1				1	
Prostate .....					1				1	
Brain .....					1					1
Totals .....					4	7	1	8	5	15

# Causes of Death.

	<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
All Causes .....		68	72
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	—	...	—
2 Tuberculosis, Other .....	—	...	—
3 Syphilitic Disease .....	1	...	—
4 Diphtheria .....	—	...	—
5 Whooping Cough .....	—	...	—
6 Meningococcal Infections .....	—	...	—
7 Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	...	—
8 Measles .....	—	...	—
9 Other infective and Parasitic Diseases .....	—	...	1
10 Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	—	...	2
11 Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Stomach ...	3	...	1
12 Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	—	...	1
13 Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	—	...	2
14 Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .....	2	...	9
15 Leukaemia Aleukaemia .....	—	...	—
16 Diabetes .....	—	...	—
17 Vascular Leisions of Nervous System ...	12	...	16
18 Coronary Disease, Angina .....	16	...	8
19 Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	—	...	—
20 Other Heart Disease .....	4	...	12
21 Other Circulatory Disease .....	3	...	4
22 Influenza .....	1	...	—
23 Pneumonia .....	3	...	4
24 Bronchitis .....	6	...	—
25 Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	1	...	—
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duedenum .....	—	...	—
27 Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	1	...	—
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	2	...	1
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	—	...	—
30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .....	—	...	—
31 Congenital Malformations .....	—	...	3
32 Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	10	...	8
33 Motor Vehicle accidents .....	—	...	—
34 All other Accidents .....	3	...	—
36 Homicide and operations of war .....	—	...	—
	68	...	72



## GLAMORGAN (ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY)—VITAL STATISTICS, 1957.

	Estimated Population 1957	Number of Births	BIRTHS		Number of Deaths	DEATHS		INFANT MORTALITY		NEO-NATAL MORTALITY					
			Rate per 1,000 Population			Rate per 1,000 Population		Deaths under 1 Year	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Deaths under 4 Weeks	Rate per 1,000 Live Births				
			Crude	Adjusted		Crude	Adjusted								
England and Wales .....	722,952	...	16.10	...	514,946	...	11.5	...	16.641	...	23.00	...	11,904	...	16.5
Administrative County .....	740,600	...	12,081	...	9,085	...	12.27	...	13.99	...	380	...	31.45	...	21.77
Urban Districts .....	535,500	...	8,826	...	6,582	...	12.29	...	14.13	...	290	...	32.86	...	22.89
Rural Districts .....	205,100	...	3,255	...	2,503	...	12.20	...	13.18	...	90	...	27.65	...	18.74
HEALTH DIVISION.															
CONSTITUENT DISTRICTS.															
Aberdare and Mountain Ash—															
Aberdare Urban .....	40,100	...	611	...	581	...	14.49	...	14.92	...	23	...	37.64	...	29.46
Mountain Ash Urban .....	30,590	...	520	...	411	...	13.44	...	16.26	...	23	...	44.23	...	28.35
Caerphilly and Gelligaer—															
Caerphilly Urban .....	37,330	...	666	...	352	...	9.43	...	12.73	...	21	...	31.53	...	22.52
Gelligaer Urban .....	36,260	...	667	...	405	...	11.17	...	14.07	...	22	...	32.98	...	20.99
Mid-Glamorgan—															
Bridgend Urban .....	14,810	...	278	...	173	...	11.68	...	12.61	...	13	...	46.76	...	28.78
Maesteg Urban .....	22,640	...	365	...	271	...	11.97	...	15.20	...	11	...	30.14	...	27.40
Ogmore and Garw Urban .....	22,180	...	339	...	256	...	11.54	...	13.96	...	10	...	29.50	...	11.80
Porthcawl Urban .....	10,310	...	130	...	140	...	13.58	...	11.54	...	6	...	46.15	...	38.46
Penybont Rural .....	35,660	...	596	...	524	...	14.69	...	13.22	...	19	...	31.88	...	18.46
Neath and District—															
Neath M.B. ....	31,170	...	435	...	379	...	12.16	...	13.74	...	13	...	29.89	...	16.09
Neath Rural .....	41,370	...	607	...	426	...	10.30	...	13.08	...	15	...	24.71	...	21.42
Pontypridd and Llantrisant—															
Llantrisant Rural .....	25,780	...	467	...	262	...	10.16	...	13.00	...	14	...	29.98	...	21.41
Pontypridd Urban .....	37,590	...	585	...	527	...	14.02	...	15.28	...	17	...	29.06	...	18.80
Port Talbot and Glyncoerrwg—															
Glyncoerrwg Urban .....	9,750	...	212	...	107	...	10.97	...	15.69	...	6	...	28.30	...	23.58
Port Talbot M.B. ....	47,780	...	899	...	505	...	10.57	...	13.64	...	35	...	38.93	...	24.47
South East Glamorgan—															
Barry M.B. ....	42,020	...	765	...	464	...	11.04	...	12.14	...	28	...	36.60	...	26.14
Cardiff Rural .....	39,180	...	593	...	561	...	14.32	...	11.74	...	14	...	23.61	...	16.86
Cowbridge M.B. ....	1,010	...	11	...	11	...	10.89	...	11.33	...	—	...	—	...	—
Cowbridge Rural .....	19,310	...	360	...	148	...	7.66	...	13.33	...	8	...	22.22	...	16.67
Penarth Urban .....	19,200	...	321	...	232	...	12.08	...	11.11	...	11	...	34.27	...	28.04
West Glamorgan—															
Gower Rural .....	11,920	...	197	...	159	...	13.34	...	12.14	...	8	...	40.61	...	25.38
Llŷchwr Urban .....	25,860	...	348	...	289	...	11.18	...	13.08	...	6	...	17.24	...	14.37
Pontardawe Rural .....	31,880	...	435	...	423	...	13.27	...	14.46	...	12	...	27.59	...	13.79
Rhondda—															
Rhondda M.B. ....	106,900	...	1,674	...	1,479	...	13.84	...	16.05	...	45	...	26.88	...	20.31



This report is presented during a period when there are added anxieties in connection with the health of the community. Happily, we can record that the food supplies and sewerage arrangements are satisfactory according to old standards. Most of the killing diseases of the past are well under control but problems such as the present high incidence of coronary disease, cancer and mental disease are problems that require solving.

In recent years, science has made gigantic strides for the benefit of humanity.

Towards the end of the last century, a poet wrote, "true it is that nature hides her treasures less and less man now presides in power where once he trembled in his weakness," that is truer today than it was then. Unfortunately, this progress has produced "arrows that fly by night"—we do not yet know with certainty what the effect of radiation, petrol fumes and food additives, etc. will be in this and future generations.

In conclusion, I would like to express to the Council my appreciation of the interest shown by the Members in matters affecting Public Health and to thank Dr. Kathleen Davies and Dr. B. T. Jones for deputising for me when required. I should also like to thank the staff for their co-operation and particularly Mr. Dicks, the Senior Public Health Inspector and the other members of the Public Health Department, who by their efforts have helped to maintain a high standard of efficiency in matters relating to Public Health.

I am, Sir,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

J. ALUN EVANS,

Medical Officer of Health.







